

Dear Commissioners,

I am concerned about recent reports which indicate that linesharing may not be federally mandated in current drafts of the favored plan initiated by NARUC and modified by Commissioner Martin.

A potentially unintended consequence of linesharing removal would be the ability of the Bells to close certain lines to local voice competition. The Bells currently have millions of DSL customers -- removal of linesharing would mean that local competitors could not lease the voice segment of the line without losing their DSL service. In many areas, RBOC DSL is the only form of broadband available.

As a consumer, linesharing is very important to me because it removes the barrier of the last mile (which would be impossible for any competitor to replicate), and allows competitors to offer DSL at competitive rates. In fact, I have seen a gradual decrease in rates, from over \$200/month in 1998, to just around \$40/month currently. This reduction in price is a direct result of competition.

Simply put, removal of linesharing would lead to higher prices for broadband internet access, less competition for local voice service, and slower deployment of next generation broadband solutions. I hope you take these critical factors into consideration when making your decision.

Thank you for your attention.

Best Regards,
John Mora